

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 205885

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:ROHOMME

APPROVED BY EUR - JGLOWENSTEIN

EUR/WE AREBARBOUR

S/S: O - LMATTESON

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P 290123Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 205885

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT LISBON 4930 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO

THE HAGUE LONDON PARIS ROME NATO EC BRUSSELS AUG 27

QTE

S E C R E T LISBON 4930

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCHES

REF: (A) STATE 202520; (B) LONDON 13154; (C) STATE
203729; (D) PARIS 21854

1. I MET SEPARATELY LAST NIGHT WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH
AMBASSADORS. BRITISH HAD ALREADY RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM LONDON TO
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 205885

OUR DEMARCHE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED NO NEWS. I
BRIEFED THEM BOTH FULLY ON BACKGROUND OF DEMARCHES.

2. BOTH AMBASSADORS AGREED THAT WE WERE AT A CRITICAL POINT

IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL DRAMA, THAT BEST POLICY FOR WEST WAS TO SUPPORT MELO ANTUNES GROUP AND THAT TIME WAS NOW RUNNING AGAINST MELO ANTUNES. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD SOME RESERVATIONS, BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN COSTA GOMES ONLY LAST FRIDAY ON ANOTHER MATTER AND HAD RAISED GENERAL POLITICAL CONCERNS AT THAT TIME ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. BUT HE DID NOT OPPOSE MAKING ANOTHER EFFORT. HE HAD BEEN QUERIED BY LONDON ON WHETHER ANTUNES GROUP HAD THOUGHT THROUGH POSSIBLE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS OF DEMARCHES. (REFTEL B. I DOUBT BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILL BE ABLE TO CHECK DIRECTLY WITH MELO ANTUNES GROUP WHICH IS BEING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH WEST.) I ASSURED HIM THAT THEY HAD AND NOTED THAT THEY HAD MADE TWO REQUESTS FOR EUROPEAN SUPPORT. IN ADDITION I HAD LEARNED FROM A SOURCE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE THAT U.S. DEMARCHE HAD HAD POSITIVE EFFECT.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS GENERALLY BEEN NEGATIVE ON DEMARCHES TO COSTA GOMES. SURPRISINGLY, I FOUND HIM RATHER POSITIVE THIS TIME. I PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT ANTUNES GROUP HAD REQUESTED DEMARCHES, AND THEY WERE IN A BETTER POSITION THAN ANY OF US TO JUDGE THEIR POTENTIAL EFFECT. HE AGREED, ADDING THAT IN ANY EVENT WE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AT THIS POINT. LATTER COMMENT INDICATES THAT FRENCH EMBASSY NOW SHARES OUR VIEW THAT TIDE BEGINNING TO RUN AGAINST MELO ANTUNES. PERHAPS THIS WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON DECOURCEL'S OUTLOOK.

CARLUCCI
UNQTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, DEMARCHE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE205885
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:ROHOMME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750299-0021
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750898/baaaaabt.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971008
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, PO, PFOR
To: BRUSSELS
DUBLIN
COPENHAGEN
LUXEMBOURG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

